Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

809

May 24, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We are writing to reinforce the strong bipartisan consensus among policymakers, industry participants, and analysts that the success of the broadband marketplace stems from policies that encourage competition, private investment, and legal certainty. The regulatory framework first adopted in 1998 by the Clinton Administration's FCC has resulted in broadband industry infrastructure investment of approximately \$60 billion per year. In the last decade, multiple providers and the hundreds of thousands of workers they employ have brought high speed connections to 95 percent of U.S. households where two-thirds of Americans now access the Internet through broadband at home.

Still, much work remains to be done. According to the National Broadband Plan, 14 million Americans lack broadband access altogether, many underserved areas need more robust broadband facilities, and both wired and wireless broadband services require increasing speeds. As the Plan notes, that work will require as much as \$350 billion in additional private investment. Generating those enormous sums from industry, and the good-paying jobs they produce, will require a continued commitment to the stable regulatory environment that has existed for the last dozen years.

Because of this, we have serious concerns about the proposed new regulatory framework for broadband and the Internet. The expanded FCC jurisdiction over broadband that has been proposed and the manner in which it would be implemented are unprecedented and create regulatory uncertainty. The controversy surrounding that approach will likely serve as a distraction from what should be our Nation's foremost communications priority: bringing broadband to every corner of America, getting every American online, and providing the high speed connections needed to realize the promises of telemedicine, distance learning, and other forms of consumer empowerment.

The continued deployment and adoption of broadband, the growing importance of the Internet to our constituents, and the significant contributions this will make to our economy should be the FCC's primary focus right now. The uncertainty this proposal creates will jeopardize jobs and deter needed investment for years to come. The significant regulatory impact of reclassifying broadband service is not something that should be taken lightly and should not be done without additional direction from Congress. We urge you not to move

forward with a proposal that undermines critically important investment in broadband and the jobs that come with it.

Thank you for your attention to this letter, and we look forward to working with you in a constructive way to address these matters.

Sincerely,

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Billing

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- Rep. Loretta Sanchez
- Rep. Michael McMahon
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- Rep. Robert Brady
- Rep. Bobby Bright
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- Rep. Glenn Nye
- Rep. Ed Towns
- Rep. Debbie Halvorson
- Rep. Scott Murphy

- Rep. Suzanne Kosmas
- Rep. Ciro Rodriguez
- Rep. Frank Kratovil
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- Rep. Gary Peters
- Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger
- Rep. Christopher Carney
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- Rep. Sanford Bishop
- Rep. John Tanner
- Rep. Jim Costa
- Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick
- Rep. Gabrielle Giffords
- Rep. Gene Taylor
- Rep. Dennis Moore
- Rep. Elijah Cummings
- Rep. Rick Larsen
- Rep. Harry Teague
- Rep. Corrine Brown



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson U.S. House of Representatives 2432 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Edolphus Towns U.S. House of Representatives 2232 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Towns:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Charlie Wilson U.S. House of Representatives 226 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wilson:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Al Green U.S. House of Representatives 236 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Green:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Gene Green U.S. House of Representatives 2372 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Green:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Debbie Halvorson U.S. House of Representatives 1541 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Halvorson:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings U.S. House of Representatives 2353 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hastings:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Baron P. Hill U.S. House of Representatives 223 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hill:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa U.S. House of Representatives 2463 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hinojosa:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Tim Holden U.S. House of Representatives 2417 Rayburn House Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Holden:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson U.S. House of Representatives 1511 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Johnson:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick U.S. House of Representatives 1123 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kirkpatrick:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Suzanne Kosmas U.S. House of Representatives 238 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kosmas:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Frank M. Kratovil, Jr. U.S. House of Representatives 314 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kratovil:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Rick Larsen U.S. House of Representatives 108 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Larsen:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Dan Maffei U.S. House of Representatives 1630 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Maffei:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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December 15, 2010

The Honorable Michael E. McMahon U.S. House of Representatives 323 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McMahon:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks U.S. House of Representatives 2342 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Meeks:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Charlie Melancon U.S. House of Representatives 404 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Melancon:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Walt Minnick U.S. House of Representatives 1517 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Minnick:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Dennis Moore U.S. House of Representatives 1727 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Moore:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Jason Altmire U.S. House of Representatives 332 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Altmire:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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December 15, 2010

The Honorable Mike Arcuri U.S. House of Representatives 127 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Arcuri:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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December 15, 2010

The Honorable Joe Baca U.S. House of Representatives 2245 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Baca:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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December 15, 2010

The Honorable John Barrow U.S. House of Representatives 213 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barrow:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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